SEVEN QUESTIONS

AND THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NDH

by Suzanne Brooks-Pincevic

Croatian historian, Dr Josip Jurcevic, specialist in WWII "Bleiburg" history,

and guest on the Hrvati-Amac website in October 2005,

avoided answering seven "Bleiburg" questions.

A month before, viewers to the site were invited to submit questions for Dr Jurcevic to answer. By the end of September there were some 50 questions submitted by about 16 people. Amongst whom the writer was one. The writer's six questions arrived about mid-way in the list, and because the writer's questions were in English, most were translated at the end of the month into Croatian – not once, but twice, and so the writer's questions appeared four times – twice in English and twice in Croatian.

Dr Jurcevic arrived on the website on 2nd October 2005 to answer the questions. He did not commence at the beginning, but instead answered the questions that came immediately after those of the writer. He answered all the questions to the end of the list. The following day he returned to the site and answered the rest of the questions that had preceded those of the writer, except for one. So, that one question, and the writer's six, remained unanswered. A member of the site asked why Dr Jurcevic had omitted to answer the seven remaining questions? He was told that Dr Jurcevic intended to answer all of them and would return. That was over a month ago. To the writer's knowledge Dr Jurcevic has since been reminded twice. Yet the questions still remain unanswered.

What is now more than obvious, is that Dr Jurcevic has deliberately avoided these seven questions. And not only is this rude but also his conduct is most unprofessional – given that any creditable historian welcomes a challenge, and the opportunity to discuss his theories. One is therefore compelled to ask WHY Dr Jurcevic has chosen not to answer the writer's questions?

It cannot be because he has no time – a more than sufficient period has elapsed.

It cannot be because he is unable to read the questions – they were translated *twice.*

It cannot be because he did not notice them – they appeared *four* times.

It cannot be because he does not know the answers – he has a doctorate in this history.

Let us then have a look at those six questions, and as to why Jurcevic has found them a problem to answer:

1) How big numerically were the NDH Armed Forces and exactly how many divisions made up the domobrans and the ustasa?

A simple question any thorough researcher of this history would know. It was the simplest, but the MOST important, of all the 50 questions asked of Jurcevic, because the answer to THIS question opens the door to the REASON for the murder of over half-a-million patriotic Croats; whose fight was mainly an internal war against Serb and/or communist tyranny in their OWN land – NOT the world war being fought in the other countries around them. The NDH Armed Forces were a lot bigger and more efficient than the current government wants you to believe. This was why they were a threat to establishing another Yugoslavia and the reason why so many were slaughtered.

When the REASON for their death, and what they fought for, is ignored, how can respect be given? It cannot be given *and it is NOT given*. When this question is answered truthfully, it reveals that there were *hundreds of thousands of Croats in the NDH* who believed a free Croatia was worth fighting for – and THAT gives the Domobrans, the Ustasa, and the NDH regime the RESPECT they deserve. A truthful answer to this question shows **WHY the communists massacred half-a-million people – it was so that communist Yugoslavia could exist**.

This question was necessary, because noticeably almost all detail about the NDH has been avoided in the many books written recently by Jurcevic and his colleagues. Therefore there can be no doubt that these deliberate omissions adhere to a well-known newspaper adage – "what is not recorded did not happen".

The truthful answer to this question would be: *In all 19 divisions: Domobrans approximately 100,400 (43%). In all 19 divisions: Ustasas approximately 132,900 (57%). In total approx. 233,300 (100%).*

To this needs to be added the various infantry divisions still training in Germany just before the end of the war (eg: 369th Devils division, 373rd Tiger division, 392nd Blue division), plus the assisting branches MINORSA which included medical, educational and financial personnel, plus there was the Airforce, Navy and Rangers. Adding many more to the number – in fact well ***over 300,000 personnel*** *at the END of the war.*

BUT – of course, this large number goes against the current HDZ Government policy of minimizing the numbers who were in the NDH. The government wants us to believe there were only a few thousand, not *hundreds* of thousands, they want us to believe that the NDH was a non-entity, a non-state, that it virtually did not exist. They refuse to

recognize their absolute determination – that went beyond massive odds – NOT to give in to Serb or Communist domination, that they were NOT fascists, that they were totally focused ONLY in fighting for an independent Croatian state. So what does that mean? It means the government can continue to fool the world into believing the NDH victims were "fascists" killed by "a few revengeful liberators" and with these lies the mass murderers continue to escape justice and "democratic" **commos stay in power (for life!)** This is the ultimate REASON their huge sacrifice is not acknowledged. Croatia's neo-communist government is supported in this subterfuge by manipulative foreign powers who are happy to use this blackmail over the Croatian public, in order to continue a century of control over the Croatian state to further their own interests.

It is true that people employed by the current government have erected a monument; they have written books about the terrible tragedy to their people; they made a special occasion for commemoration. But all of this is a big HYPOCRISY by which they are trying to win your trust and support. It cunningly camouflages the fact that NOWHERE have they given any credit to the NDH, nor any credit to those who died fighting for a free Croatia. All they have actually given them is PITY. And pity is an insult to the Croatian Armed Forces and their families, particularly when given by today's UDBA and the descendents of the communists who murdered them.

Jurcevic's book "Bleiburg" is a good example of the how the NDH, and the REASON for the deaths of its patriots, have been ignored. Last month a review was done of the book in Australia and the reviewer states that: "the [book] title is misleading because it is more about the rise to power of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY) during WWII, than about "Bleiburg"…the book gives a very detailed description of the formation and implementation of CPY police apparatus (later called UDBA)." The reviewer records that: "the Ustashi movement is not mentioned much at all except from the point of view that it was the other party in this conflict. There was nothing new in the book on the [British] conspiracy and there was no new information on Bleiburg and the Death Marches than we already know".

Careful scrutiny of this, and other recent "Bleiburg" publications that have come from the same HDZ Government-sponsored sources (another is "Bleiburg Memento" by Jurcevic's colleague Bozo Vukusic), reveal that firstly, huge tracts of information about the NDH are missing, and secondly, behind the words and photos (carefully chosen to please the unsuspecting majority of Croatian readers), there is a meticulously contrived vein of dis-information running through the books, which undermines the NDH and the Croatian Armed Forces – inferring that they were stupid, mis-guided followers of a small group of brutal idealists. Hence they are given PITY – not respect. At the same time the Communist Party are shown as intelligent victors in successfully obtaining Yugoslavia. Though some criticism is made against the partisans for brutal acts against

the Croatian Armed Forces and innocent victims, this is shown as being done by so-called "elite" troops out of so-called "revenge by the liberators" for what was supposed to have been done to the partisans**. A lot of undeserved credit is given to the partisans and a big excuse for the cold-blooded murders they committed. The NDH is being eradicated from history and its diminished followers recognized only with pity. This is the true agenda of these books.**

Jurcevic would have to know by now the truth about the numbers of the NDH military. But the truthful answer is contrary to government policy and the government pays his salary – and so presumably, for that reason, it was prudent for him not to answer the question. If he were truthful he would have gone against government policy, if he lied he would eventually be exposed – or made to appear a fool.

2) Prof. Michael McAdams has given considerable credit to John Ivan Prcela for his book "Operation Slaughterhouse" which he considers is "a definitive work on the Bleiburg Tragedy" and he also gave Prcela credit for organizing the first scientific symposium on the Bleiburg Tragedy in 1973. And yet in your book "Cuvari Bleiburske Uspomene" you omit giving credit to Prcela, as the principal speaker and organizer of that symposium in 1973.

3) Furthermore you have been quoted as saying that Prcela, Guldescu and their contemporaries are not appropriate and accurate sources for Croatian history. You are also quoted as saying the same thing about Prcela's book, "Hrvatski Holokaust I" (of which you were the resencent). What have Prcela and his contemporaries written to warrant your disapproval as being inaccurate and/or inappropriate? Please give at least three examples.

In commenting on the above two questions I would advise that John Prcela received arguments from Drs Jurcevic and Zivic (from the Ivo Pilar Institute) to alter sections of his book to conform to their ideas of that history, but he consistently refused to do so. He told them "he is against watering-down his knowledge and total life's work about the biggest tragedy in Croatia's history". John Prcela – and his contemporaries – wrote openly about the NDH and the Ustasa. They wrote the truth about their aspirations for an independent Croatia. It is for that reason Prcela and his contemporaries have been ignored. Not because they were "inappropriate or inaccurate sources for Croatian history" – after all, from whom, and when did Jurcevic and his colleague Dr Zivic get most of their non-communist-based information? It was when they assisted Prcela to print his book Hrvatski Holokaust and his many records came into their possession.

4) You have been recorded as saying that "what is acceptable for the American and international book readers [with regard to "Bleiburg] "is not acceptable for the Croatian public". What exactly do you mean by that - are you saying that Croatians cannot handle the truth?

A lot of the truth is now surfacing in Croatia, notably without causing any undue concern amongst the people. In keeping with the government's policy to obliterate any reference about the NDH, this remark would seem to have been used as an excuse to prevent the spread of books in Croatia that reveal the truth of what happened in the region of Yugoslavia during and after WWII, particularly with the NDH.

5) In your book "Cuvari Bleiburske Uspomene" you claim a smaller portion of the Croatian exodus crossed the border into Austria and that the partisans stopped the much larger portion before they crossed the Austrian border. This is contrary to statements held in the British military archives. Therefore, from where did you get this information which refutes the British recordings made at that time by their military personnel in the area and substantiated by air reconnaissance?

This would appear to be another attempt to portray the partisans as an efficient and powerful combat force. When in fact they were the opposite. A general impression recorded at the time by various British officers was that they regarded Tito's troops as "a murderous, thieving rabble - with minimal fighting potential". They were no match for the Croatian Armed Forces and could not possibly have prevented the huge mass of refugees, who were being escorted by the Croatian Army in combat mode, from crossing the Austrian border. Both British records and eyewitness accounts support this fact. The partisans only gained the upper hand when the British confiscated all the weapons from the Croatian soldiers and left them defenceless.

6) As we know, Vladko Macek projected himself as a leader of the Croatian people. But just prior to WWII he not only sold out to Belgrade, but during the war he also chose to sit on the fence, with his hands in the air, and left his many followers floundering without any positive leadership. Therefore what did Macek do, or attempt to do, that was for the good of Croatia during the period of WWII and the days leading up to it, that he deserves the considerable credit you give him in your book "Bleiburg"?

Pavelic failed to achieve his final goal, but at least he tried. He did not fail because he was on the losing side, but because the Allies had their own plans for Croatia, cemented by the Versailles pact long before WWII, and had absolutely no intention of accommodating Croatian sovereignty. Despite all these odds stacked against him,

Pavelic did his best in difficult times. He took the opportunity presented, constrained though it was, to wrench his people out of the grip of slavitude. There was no one else who even came close to making a positive effort for the freedom of Croatia. Macek, who the majority of people looked up to, sold out to an enemy who openly professed that its ultimate aim was to take all of Croatia for itself. He was nothing less than a traitor. When the time came to show some courage and leadership he failed to perform. He sat out the war safely tucked away, and when given a chance at the end of the war to negotiate for an independent Croatia on behalf of his people he failed once again to take the initiative. Though it is highly unlikely he would have even remotely succeeded, what is more to the point, is that he did not even try, but opted again for "Yugoslavia!"

The 7th unanswered question was asked by Damir Borovcak, author of "Hello Toronto – Ovdje Zagreb" and former editor of Focus. This was his question [translated into English by the writer]:

7) Postovani g. dr. Jurcevic, I would like to know how much the Croatian government needs you ? You are acknowleged as an authority, and have a doctorate, in the subject of crimes committed against Croatians after WWII, and you also work professionally on the issues of the Domovinski Rat. Please tell me truthfully: Did anyone contact you from the current Croatian Government, or from the President's office, about the historical facts regarding the genocide of Croatians published in documents or articles, or have you ever been engaged on that theme for your professional opinion, or for the gathering of historical facts for the purpose of showing the truth to the world of the historical oppression of Croatians ? Zahvaljujem, DBorovcak

As with the other six questions, it would appear that Dr Josip Jurcevic was also unable to answer this question without compromising himself. His inability to answer these seven questions indicates that he is not being upfront, and suggests that he, and his colleagues, have a programme that is different to the one they are showing to the Croatian public. His actions are made more questionable by his close association with Bozo Vukusic, who has a dubious record of UDBA connections, and a life-sentence for murder in a German prison that he was inexplicably able to walk free from – just before the Domovinski Rat – oddly, into a government position of studying Croatian victims of WWII. The fact that these two are now involving ministers of the Catholic Church, in the distribution and circulation of their contrived books is most disturbing. The Church needs to be aware of the duplicity of the conduct of dubious government employees who are benefitting from achieving their destructive agenda through the auspices of the Catholic Church.

Disastrous Consequences from "Bleiburg" *DIS*-information

All the above confirms the statements made in my article **"Hypocrisy – or What?"** which was published just prior to the 60th Bleiburg Commemoration in the *Spremnost 19 April 2005*, and other newspapers, as well as the Hrvati-Amac website (in English and later Croatian). In this article the writer drew attention to the manner in which the current HDZ Government historians, and untrustworthy government operatives, have infiltrated "Bleiburg" organizations and are manipulating the "Bleiburg" history for their own devious purposes by providing a monument and a (strategically ill-planned) day of recognition – but most importantly by creating books that appear to the unsuspecting reader to be good publications, when in fact they cleverly pave the way for the eventual destruction of the truth of the ”Bleiburg" history. This is all being done in the Croatian language, right under your noses, by a government who has on numerous occasions shown its true colours about NOT recognizing the NDH, or any Croatian leaders of that time. They now dominate the honouring and recording of this vital history, and are making fools of the Croatian immigrants by manipulating "Bleiburg" – the immigrants' greatest symbol of sacrifice in their struggle for a free nation – to their own advantage.

How long will it take to rout so many traitors from Croatia's midst? How long before Croats have the gumption to stand up to their bullies – local and foreign - and demand respect? Why is it so difficult to tell the world they did not invade any other country in WWII; that Croatia fought in self-defence, against Serb and Communist tyranny, for its independent state? So simple. Yet so hard to overcome the huge ignorance and bizarre apathy amongst the people.

It would be extremely naive to say that this old "Bleiburg" history has nothing to do with today's politics. The bad propaganda arising from it is used extensively in accusations coming from The Hague, and by Serb extremists (and the Croatian President, Stjepan Mesic !) who exploit it to their advantage with absurd and illogical fabrications about ”Jasenovac" and ”Krajina". But more than that, it provides Croatia's enemies with a moralistic weapon demanding atonement, which impinges on all aspects of Croatia's aspirations today in Europe. Overtones from this incorrect propaganda are laced into the EU's crippling criteria for Croatia's compliance to gain entry to the EU – a criteria that would shackle Croatia again to powerful overlords to profit from. Crippling debts and the Banks all in foreign hands, are an early indication of such exploitation by European powers, through the manipulation of weak and selfish Croatian Government Ministers.

This is why the truth about Bleiburg and the NDH is SO vitally important for Croatians to accept and broadcast to the world if they want to keep their country from being blackmailed by its enemies with erroneous anti-Croat WWII propaganda. It is this propaganda that forms the base of all their accusations (The Hague, Jasenovac, Krajina).

They are trying very hard, and unfortunately they are slowly but surely succeeding, in making another Pavelic out of Tudjman, another Luburic out of Gotovina and an NDH out of the new Croatian state by saying it too was not legitimate. The Croatian population today blissfully go about their business, enjoying booming tourism and swanky new markets full of foreign goods, ignorant of the fact that in truth they are a nation at war, wherein the weapons are not bullets but propaganda and economics. Why are their enemies doing this? What do they want? Croatia of course – the best Real Estate In Europe.

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